



ATHLETIC FIELDS

Capital Campaign

What is the timeline for constructing the new athletic fields?

As of March the Town needs to raise the final \$100,000 in order to make the dream a reality. Depending on fundraising, the Town plans to start construction on or around June 6. Construction will take less than a month. The sod will have to rest for a while, but the Town plans to open the fields in late summer, just in time for the busy fall 2016 sports season!

What will the new athletic fields include?

The project includes two high-quality, Olympic size natural grass fields located north of the existing Applejack Field. Each field will be 125 yards long and 75 yards wide, large enough to host college and varsity teams, but flexible enough to host youth sports teams. The fields will be multi-use, which means the fields can accommodate soccer, lacrosse, football and field hockey, just to name a few. The fields will cost an estimated \$400,000. The new athletic fields are Phase I of a larger Master Plan to responsibly develop the Dana L. Thompson Memorial Park into a first-rate recreation facility and adapt to the changing needs of the community.

Who will use the new athletic fields?

In addition to tournaments, the athletic fields will be used by local organizations including Burr and Burton Academy, Manchester Elementary Middle School (MEMS), and youth soccer, lacrosse and other youth sports. These organizations will use the athletic fields for games and practices.



What has the Town of Manchester raised already?

The Town has received commitments of over \$300,000 from various donors. The Town of Manchester is also contributing the land, worth \$160,000. A few years ago the Town also invested \$1.7 million in the new Park House, which will serve as a centerpiece for the new athletic fields. The Town has raised more than three-fourth of the funds necessary to build first-rate, quality athletic fields, but it still needs to raise about \$100,000 in order to start construction this spring and open the fields in late summer.



\$125,000
PRIVATE DONOR

\$75,000
TOWN CIRC FUND

\$75,000
BURR & BURTON ACADEMY

\$25,000
GRANT

\$4,000
YOUTH SPORTS ORGS

\$100,000 *STILL NEEDED*

Why is the Town of Manchester building new athletic fields?

There are a few reasons.

- Lack of good quality fields
- Difficulty accommodating all the field use requests
- Need for a safe playing surface for athletes of all ages
- Ability to attract and retain younger residents, especially families

The recent economic development study conducted by the Town of Manchester, Town of Dorset and Village of Manchester recommends that the Towns and Village should “leverage and promote existing sports and outdoor recreational assets to increase visitation to the Northshire Region.” The fields will be used to host large, regional tournaments, which will help boost economic activity, especially during the less-than-prime so-called shoulder seasons, like May, early June, middle and end of September and October after foliage season. The Dana L. Thompson Memorial Park already hosts the Equinox Lacrosse Shootout in June, which brings a large number of visitors to the area. With better fields the Town will increase its ability to host and attract youth and high school tournaments.

Why do the new athletic fields cost \$400,000?

A lot goes into building good quality athletic fields. The current area lacks adequate topsoil. Topsoil is the foundation of athletic fields, but good topsoil is expensive. The topsoil will provide the necessary nutrients and proper drainage to grow grass. The current plan includes the installation of sod to shorten the growing process so that the fields can be used in the fall of 2016. The current plan also includes irrigation and drainage, which will help maintain the fields, and fencing to protect the fields from vehicles. The construction budget also includes the equipment necessary to operate the fields, including twelve soccer goals (full-size and youth) and eight lacrosse goals, player benches and scorer’s tables. The fields will also include electronic scoreboards and a storage barn for team equipment like balls and cones. And of course the sheer size of the area being constructed, a little less than 200,000 square feet, adds significantly to the overall cost.

How do I contribute to the construction of the new athletic fields?

Donations can be made to:
Town of Manchester - Field Project
6039 Main Street
Manchester Center, VT 05255

The Town of Manchester is a tax-exempt entity - donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowable to federal and state law. Consult your tax consultant for more details.

Maximize your gift. Check to see if your employer matches charitable donations.

Questions? Call Pauline Moore, Economic Development Officer, at 802-362-1373 (cell) or email p.moore@manchester-vt.gov.

The Town’s Tax ID number is: 03-6000556